UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/825/Part II/7
17 August 1994

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-fifth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1993-1994 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1995

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 7 - Malaysia

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.94-03248

II.7 MALAYSIA

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

1. At the end of 1993, UNHCR provided protection and assistance to some 7,500 Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers, of whom 7,400 were Vietnamese. There were also an estimated 5,300 non-Indo-Chinese in the country who were of concern to the Office, most of whom were Myanmar Muslims (4,900). In addition 317 Bosnians have been resettled in Malaysia and were assisted by the Malaysian authorities with UNHCR being called upon to assist individual cases, from time to time, mainly to trace relatives for family reunion purposes.

2. The Vietnamese and the Cambodians live in a closed camp at Sungei Besi some 14 km from Kuala Lumpur. UNHCR provided assistance to the population through the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), while the Malaysian authorities are responsible for the administration of the camp. The non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers are scattered around the country, with the majority living in Kuala Lumpur.

3. Through repatriation and resettlement, the Indo-Chinese population at Sungei Besi decreased by 28 per cent in 1993, compared to a population of 10,401 at the end of 1992. There were no new arrivals of Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers in Malaysia in 1993. Approximately 27 per cent of the caseload were women, while 25 per cent were children below the age of 18, of whom 308 were unaccompanied minors.

4. At 30 April 1994, a total of 6,962 asylum-seekers and refugees were living in Sungei Besi camp.

Major developments (1993 and first quarter 1994)

5. The status determination procedure in Malaysia, scheduled to be finished by the end of 1993, was finally completed at the beginning of 1994. To avoid tension and confrontation with the population, the local authorities delayed serving decisions in the refugee status determination process.

6. As the Indo-Chinease population continues to decrease, the UNHCR Branch Office in Malaysia will streamline its assistance programme and staffing levels in accordance with actual needs.

7. The Malaysian authorities have offered Achenese refugees the right of residence in Malaysia and access to employment. UNHCR is facilitating negotiations between the authorities and Achenese leaders.

Programme objectives and priorities

8. While continuing to provide care and maintenance assistance to the Vietnamese population, UNHCR will actively engage in promoting voluntary repatriation as the only durable solution for those determined not to be refugees and arranging

resettlement to third countries for all those accorded refugee status. It is expected that durable solutions will have been found for most of the population by the end of 1994 or early 1995, with the exception of some 2,000 residual cases who refuse repatriation or fail to obtain resettlement places. Special arrangements may be necessary for these cases before the completion of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese (CPA) at the end of 1995.

9. As for non-Indo-Chinese refugees, UNHCR will encourage the local integration of Achenese. Ways of improving the situation of Myanmar Muslims and asylum-seekers of other nationalities will be explored.

10. UNHCR will continue to pursue discussions with the authorities in order to reach acceptable agreements on the protection of non-Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers/refugees. UNNHCR will continue to assess the refugee status of individual applicants under its mandate and will provide limited assistance through an implementing agency to needy cases pending durable solutions.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

11. The Prime Minister's Office, through a National Task Force, continues to be the focal point for all matters relating to Vietnamese boat people. MRCS is the main agency implementing the care and maintenance and repatriation programme for Indo-Chinese cases. Staff is seconded to MRCS by several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), World Concern International, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF - France), Philippines Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), World Council of Churches and Refugee Action UK. The Muslim Welfare Organization (PERKIM) implements the care and maintenance project for non-Indo-Chinese refugees. IOM arranges medical examinations and travel for asylum seekers who return voluntarily to Viet Nam and for refugees resettled to third countries.

General Programmes

Care and maintenance

(a) **Variations in planned activities in 1993**

12. Care and maintenance was the only type of assistance implemented under General Programmes in 1993. This assistance included food, domestic items, water supply, sanitation facilities, health care, shelter, social services and support to the operational partner. Vietnamese who were recognized as refugees were the major beneficiaries of this assistance. Some 100 non-Indo-Chinese were assisted in the form of subsistence allowances to cover the costs of food, accommodation, and personal needs while they were awaiting a durable solution, mainly resettlement in third countries.

(b) **1994 planned implementation**

13. The 1994 care and maintenance programme covers assistance to some 200 non-Indo-Chinese individual cases as well as the operational costs of the implementing partner. Individual counselling will be given to determine the level of assistance required for individual non-Indo-Chinese refugee/asylum-seekers.

(c) **1995 programme proposals**

14. It is proposed that the level of assistance will be maintained in 1995.

Special Programmes

Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA)

(a) **Variations in planned activities in 1993**

15. Care and maintenance was provided to Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers who were awaiting decisions in the determination of their refugee status, as well as to Vietnamese, determined not to be refugees.

16. An average 10,000 persons received multi-sectoral assistance in 1993, which included food, domestic items, water supply, sanitation, shelter and social services. The cost of the refugee status determination procedures was also covered by funds under this project.

(b) **1994 planned implementation**

17. UNHCR will continue to provide care and maintenance for some 7,000 Vietnamese asylum-seekers in 1994.

(c) **1995 programme proposals**

18. It is foreseen that some 2,000 residual cases will still remain in Malaysia in 1995 and that the same assistance as in 1994 will be required until durable solutions have been identified prior to the completion of the CPA at the end of 1995.

Voluntary repatriation

(a) **Variations in planned activities in 1993**

19. The promotion of voluntary repatriation was intensified in 1993. A camp news letter was introduced to provide accurate updated information to the camp population. Counselling focused on vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied minors and single women.

(b) **1994 planned implementation and 1995 programme proposals**

20. In order to achieve the objective of completing the CPA by the end of 1995, UNHCR will strengthen its activities towards repatriation. Special measures will be identified in order to find solutions for an estimated 2,000 residual cases who will probably remain in the camp in 1995.

Other Trust Funds

21. A donation for the local purchase of rice for Vietnamese asylum-seekers to the value of $ 248,040 was received in 1993.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

(a) **Variations in planned activities in 1993**

22. Total expenditures incurred by the Branch Office in 1993 were lower than expected under all budget chapters, with the exception of common staff costs which were higher, since these were budgeted at a standard rate.

(b) **1994 planned implementation**

23. The total of the revised 1994 requirements is higher than initial estimates, mainly as a result of a net increase under salaries and common staff costs, arisin from the extension of some posts in the Branch Office in Kuala Lumpur. In Kuala Lumpur, five local posts were extended until 30 June 1995, while one post of Senio Data Processing Assistant was extended to 30 September 1994. It is planned that further staffing reductions will be made in line with the decrease in the camp population and progress achieved in finding durable solutions for the refugees and asylum-seekers in 1994. Requirements under staff travel have been maintained at the initial level, while needs under general operating expenses and office supplie and materials have been reduced. Steps have been taken to upgrade office computer equipment and improve overall security and staff safety, including the provision o security equipment, as a result of which the provision under the budget chapter fo the acquisition of permanent equipment had to be increased.

(c) **1995 programme proposals**

24. In 1995, appropriate staffing levels will be maintained to provide suitable support to the care and maintenance, voluntary repatriation, resettlement and social service programmes, especially in view of some of the protection problems i the camps. The initial estimate for administrative expenditure in 1995 is lower than the 1994 revised administrative budget due to the discontinuation of several posts in the Branch Office in Kuala Lumpur. One post of Protection Officer and three local posts are planned for discontinuation as of 31 December 1994. In addition, seven local posts are also planned for discontinuation as of 30 June 1995, while a further five posts, including two posts at the National Officer level, are scheduled for discontinuation on 31 December 1995. Non-staff costs under overtime and staff travel have been retained at the 1994 levels, while general operating expenses and office supplies and materials are estimated to be lower with the reduction in staff. A small provision has been made for the replacement of office furniture and equipment.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN MALAYSIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1993	1994		1995	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1993 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
513.6	120.4	128.4	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	202.7
99.9 a/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
287.7	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
–	–	414.4	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Annexes I a and II a	405.0
901.2	**120.4**	**542.8**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**607.7**
463.6	379.1	140.3	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Annexes I b and II b	122.0
1,364.8	**499.5**	**683.1**	**T O T A L (1)**	**729.7**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
2,354.5	1,881.4	2,259.4	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	1,524.6
–	–	226.7	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Annexes I a and II a	37.9
248.1	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
2,602.6	**1,881.4**	**2,486.1**	**T O T A L (2)**	**1,562.5**
3,967.4	**2,380.9**	**3,169.2**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**2,292.2**

a/ of which US$ 2,662 incurred against Overall Allocation